

## **NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT**

### **GABON**

1- The proliferation of nuclear weapons and their vectors represent a major threat to international peace and security. In order to ensure that the peaceful development of nuclear energy will not be diverted from the use that benefits the general public, the international community needs to find suitable answers to this threat.

2- The **Seoul Nuclear Security Summit** to be held from **26 to 27 March 2012** should enable world Leaders to renew the political commitments agreed upon during the 2010 Washington Summit on nuclear security and the reduction of the threat of nuclear terrorism.

3- The signing and ratification by Gabon of the Nuclear weapons **Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** since 1972, is a clear indication of our commitment for nuclear disarmament and our respect for international law.

4- Even though the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is not party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Agency takes for granted its responsibility to make sure that countries without nuclear weapons but parties to the NPT do fulfill their non-proliferation obligations under this Agreement, *“with a view to preventing nuclear energy being diverted from peaceful uses into nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”*. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has therefore established a system of checks and balances of the Non -Proliferation Treaty.

5- Gabon is a member of the IAEA since 1964. On 3 December 1979, Gabon has signed with the Agency the **Agreement for the Application of Safeguards** in connection with the **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons** was signed on 8 June 2005, with the aim of facilitating some procedures under the provisions of these Agreements. The Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the IAEA has taken the necessary steps leading to the entry into force of the aforementioned Agreements on 25 March 2010.

6- The Draft Bill on **the regulatory framework of nuclear and radiation safety, security and safeguards** is currently under consideration in the General Secretariat of the Government. This new law will transpose the Agreement on Safeguards by indicating clearly that the **Gabonese Agency on Nuclear Safety and Security (AGSSN)** that will replace the National Center for Prevention and Protection against ionized rays (**CNPPRI**) is the Authority in charge of regulation and control in matters relating to radioprotection, nuclear safety and security. In this outlook, this Authority is the National Organ in charge of the domestic implementation of all treaties signed with the IAEA.

7- There is no unique international instrument that deals with nuclear security on a global scale. The legal foundations of this issue encompass the wide range of international instruments and principles agreed upon, which should be implemented by National Organs.

8- Gabon is a member of the following IAEA instruments:

- The **Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material**, and its Subsequent Amendments;
- The **Agreement on Safeguards** (within the framework of the Nuclear weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty (NTP));
- The **Additional Protocols** to these Agreements;
- The **Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident**;
- The **Convention on Assistance in the case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiation Emergency**;
- The **Convention on Nuclear Safety**;
- The **Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management**;
- The **Code of Conduct** on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources;
- The **Supplementary Guidelines** on the Importation and Exportation of Radioactive Sources.

Gabon's membership to the relevant international instruments **should be encouraged**.

9- In the area of nuclear security, the Minister in charge of Energy and Hydraulic Resources seized the opportunity of his encounter with the IAEA Director General on the occasion of the plenary session of the General Conference in September 2010, so as to obtain the Agency's support regarding "*radiation security*" during the African Football Cup of Nations that Gabon hosted in 2012 alongside Equatorial Guinea. The Agency's assistance resulted in a joint action plan which enabled the training of defense, security personnel and regulatory agents, as well as the lending of detection material and the protection of the "**CAN 2012**" tournament venues from nuclear hazards.

10- From 8 to 11 November 2011, Agents from the Ministry of Energy and a team of experts from the United States of America in charge of National Nuclear Security met in Port-Gentil, Gabon, within the framework of a technical mission for the Security of installations bearing radioactive sources. This program was supported by the National Organ, **CNPPRI**. From 19 to 23 April 2010 the Ministry of Energy has supported the participation of five agents from **CNPPRI** in a **Workshop** held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on the *Research and Collection of Radioactive Sources*. On this occasion the Ministry also supplied the National Organ with detection material.

11- In order to guarantee a robust control on the importation and exportation of radioactive sources in the country, in conformity with the provisions of the *Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources* in favour of which Gabon has subscribed, a protocol of Agreement has been signed between the National Regulatory Authority for radioprotection and the Director General of Customs on 23 December 2010. Furthermore, a **National Training Program for Customs Officers** was organized from 13 to 17 June 2011 under the supervision of the **CNPPRI**, with assistance from two experts of the French Institute for Nuclear Radioprotection and safety, mandated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

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